

Message Text

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12
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-----114800 221101Z /21

R 211341Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8014

DIA WASHDC

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USDAO MOSCOW

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN FRG

CINCUSAFE HEIDELBERG FRG/AEAGB/C(CM)

AEAGB-PDN(CURIN)

CINCUSAFE LINDSEY AS, FRG/INCF

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FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA/ATTN: 20/

USECOM (EUDAC)

SAC INTEL OPNS CET OFFUTT AFB NB

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USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMAN

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DEPT PASS FOR GANLEY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MILI RO UR YO EEWG GW EAIR ETRD TECH

SUBJ: STATUS OF ROMANIAN-YUGOSLAV JOINT AIRCRAFT PROJECT (JUROM)

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 756 (NOTAL), (B) BREMAN A-1 (NOTAL),

(C) BUCHAREST IR 6 883 0223 77 (NOTAL), (D) 77 BUCHAREST

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8709 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: CONFLICTING DESCRIPTIONS OF JUROM PROJECT AND ROLLS-ROYCE PARTICIPATION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE LOCAL UK OFFICIALS SUGGEST UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHO IS DOING WHAT AND POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. FIRMS. REQUEST UPDATED READOUT OF U.S. INFO CONCERNING PROJECT. GIVEN STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO U.S.

OF GOOD ROMANIAN-YUGOSLAV MILITARY RELATIONS IT OCCURS TO US THAT U.S. PARTICIPATION OF SOME KIND IN JUROM PROJECT MAY PROVIDE EASY AND POTENTIALLY PROFITABLE WAY OF IMPROVING MILITARY-TO-MILITARY CONTACTS WITH BOTH COUNTRIES TOGETHER. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SEPARATE AFTER DINNER CONVERSATIONS FEBRUARY 14, UK EMBASSY COUNSELOR MAYS, A COMMERCIAL SPECIALIST, AND DEFATT LT. COL. WILSON (PROTECT BOTH) PROVIDED CONFLICTING DESCRIPTIONS OF ROMANIAN-YUGOSLAV JOINT AIRCRAFT PROJECT AND ROLLS-ROYCE PARTICIPATION.

3. MAYS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD ROLLS-ROYCE HAS PROVIDED BOTH PARTIES WITH BASICALLY SAME ENGINE, BUT THAT MODEL GIVEN YUGOSLAVS WAS SLIGHTLY MORE ADVANCED. THIS REFLECTED YUGOSLAV NON-ALIGNED STATUS, AS DISTINGUISHED FROM ROMANIAN WARSAW PACT MEMBERSHIP. BRITISH RECOGNIZED CHANCE OF LEAKAGE OF MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY INTO ROMANIA, GIVEN COOPERATIVE NATURE OF PROJECT, BUT THOUGHT YUGOSLAVS WERE WELL AWARE IT IS IN THEIR SELF INTEREST TO PREVENT IT. TECHNOLOGY IS NOT VERY ADVANCED BY COMTEMPORARY STANDARDS IN ANY CASE. RESULT, HOWEVER, IS TWO SEPARATE ENGINES, BEING BUILT INDEPENDENTLY BY YUGOSLAVS AND ROMANIANS FOR THEIR PLANES.

4. PROJECT HAS BEEN BESET WITH DIFFICULTIES ALL ALONG, MAYS WENT ON, BUT ROMANIANS AT LEAST HAVE STRONG INCENTIVES TO PURSUE IT. THEY INCLUDE NOT ONLY NOVEMBER CRASH OF ROMANIAN

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PROTOTYPE (REF C), BUT ALSO, MAYS NOTED, INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS TO PURCHASE MIG-23'S FROM SOVIETS (SEE ALSO REF D) AND HOW PARLOUS STATE OF VFW-614 DEAL WITH WEST GERMANS (REF B). SINCE ROLLS-ROYCE IS INVOLVED IN BOTH VFW-614 AND JUROM, ROMANIANS TEND TO SEE TWO PROJECTS AS RELATED, AND TO HOPE PROGRESS ON ONE WILL HELP KEEP VFW-614 ALIVE TOO. ROLLS-ROYCE NEGOTIATING TEAM WILL SOON BE COMING TO BUCHAREST, AND DISCUSSIONS WILL INCLUDE RANGE OF ISSUES.

5. UNLIKE MAYS, WILSON AFFIRMED THAT ROMANIANS AND YUGOSLAVS ARE PRODUCING EXACTLY SAME ROLLS-ROYCE ENGINE FOR JUROM, AND THAT EXPORT CONTROL DISTINCTIONS OF TYPE MAYS REFERRED TO DO NOT ARISE. IN HIS VIEW, ONCE ROLLS-ROYCE HAD OBTAINED LICENSE FOR ENGINE, NO FURTHER LICENSES ARE NEEDED FOR TECHNICAL ENHANCEMENTS SUCH AS AFTER-BURNER PROJECT NOW CONTEMPLATED. HOWEVER, HE AGREED PROJECT WAS IMPORTANT TO ROMANIANS, AS TO YUGOSLAVS, AS WAY OF INCREASING INDEPENDENCE FROM USSR. HIS OWN STRONG FEELING WAS THAT BOTH HAD IN FACT RENOUNCED HIGH MILITARY TECHNOLOGY IN FAVOR OF WORKABLE INTERMEDIATE SYSTEMS (SALEABLE ALSO IN THIRD WORLD) AND THAT JUROM FILLS THIS BILL ADMIRABLY

6. COMMENT. CONTRADICTIONS IN TWO DESCRIPTIONS MAY RESULT FROM IGNORANCE, OR MAY BE SEMANTIC (I.E. ENGINE MAY BE SAME, AND ONLY CERTAIN ADAPTIONS DIFFERENT). HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE SUFFICIENT UNCERTAINTY TO MAKE CLARIFICATION WORTHWHILE. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE READOUT FROM ADDRESSEES OF INFO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 1096

AVAILABLE CONCERNING WHETHER YUGOSLAVS AND ROMANIANS ARE WORKING ON SAME ENGINE; WHETHER THEY ARE DOING SO SEPARATELY OR TOGETHER; WHETHER ADAPTATIONS ENVISAGED BY EITHER OR BOTH WOULD CREATE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT CAPABILITIES; WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN DISTINCTION IN EXPORT LICENSES BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA FOR JUROM COMPONENTS OR TECHNOLOGY; AND WHAT EXPORT LICENSE PROCEDURES ROLLS-ROYCE OR ANY OTHER

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PARTICIPATING WESTERN FIRM WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW FOR AFTER-BURNER ENHANCEMENT.

7. UNCERTAINTIES MAY ALSO BE SUFFICIENT TO PERMIT U.S. FIRM PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT AS IT MOVES FORWARD INTO ENHANCEMENT STAGE. WE ARE AWARE THAT PARTNERS HAVE SOUNDED U.S. AS WELL AS OTHER WESTERN FIRMS IN PAST, BUT OUR FILES DO NOT INDICATE RECENT SOUNDINGS. YUGOSLAV DCM'S REMARK (REF A) THAT POSSIBILITY OF U.S. FIRM PARTICIPATION EXISTS MAY BE SIGNIFICANT IN THIS REGARD, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE MADE IT TO U.S. DIPLOMAT RATHER THAN BUSINESSMAN. GIVEN STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO U.S. OF GOOD YUGOSLAV-ROMANIAN MILITARY RELATIONS AT A TIME OF TROUBLE ON NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK AND POTENTIAL TROUBLE IN YUGOSLAV SUCCESSION PERIOD, EMBASSY BELIEVES EFFORT TO IMPROVE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY CONTACTS WITH ROMANIA (AS SET FORTH IN OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES) AND WITH YUGOSLAVIA IS IN U.S. INTEREST. IT OCCURS TO US THAT PARTICIPATION OF SOME KIND

IN JUROM PROGRAM WOULD BE AN EASY AND POTENTIALLY PROFITABLE

WAY TO INCREASE CONTACTS WITH MILITARY IN BOTH COUNTRIES TOGETHER.

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